

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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R 301424Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 895

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USNATO 613

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: POLISH REACTION TO GIEREK VISIT ANNOUNCEMENT

1. THE CENTRAL PRESS ON AUGUST 30 CARRIED A PAP-WASHINGTON REPORT BY JAN DZIEDZIC SUMMARIZING U.S. PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GIEREK'S VISIT. CITING THE NEW YORK TIMES, BALTIMORE SUN, AND NBC TELECASTS, THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS U.S. COMMENTARY DEPICTING THE VISIT AS A "FIRST" AT SUCH A LEVEL FOR POLAND, LAUDING POLAND'S POSTWAR ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AND STRESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND DETENTE.

2. EDITORIALS THE SAME DAY IN TRYBUNA LUDU AND ZYCIE WARSZAWY ECHO THE THEME THAT THE VISIT'S IMPORTANCE EXTENDS BEYOND THE BILATERAL CONTEXT TO THE BROADER INTERNATIONAL
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PLANE. ZYCIE WARSZAWY SUGGESTS THAT FOR U.S.-POLISH RELATIONS,

ALWAYS CLOSE SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC, THE VISIT REPRESENTS A QUALITATIVE CHANGE IN RECOGNITION THAT PEOPLE'S POLAND HAS NOW BECOME A "VALUED ECONOMIC PARTNER WITH ACKNOWLEDGED AUTHORITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA". ELABORATING UPON THIS THEME TRYBUNA LUDU OBSERVES THAT THE NIXON VISIT TO POLAND IN 1972 AND GIEREK'S RETURN TRIP BECAME POSSIBLE ONLY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIALIST POLAND IN AN "ENTIRELY NEW SYSTEM" OF ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, AND ONLY AFTER POLAND'S ACHIEVEMENT OF A "NEW POSITION" IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD.

3. AN MFA OFFICIAL CONFIDED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS AUGUST 29 GENUINE RELIEF AT THE WAY THINGS HAD TURNED OUT RELATIVE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION. REMARKING THAT THE POLES HAD GONE AHEAD WITH THEIR PLANNING DESPITE REAL CONCERN OVER THE UNCERTAIN SITUATION PRIOR TO THE NIXON RESIGNATION, HE BARELY CONCEALED HIS PLEASURE AT THE OUTCOME. THE ADVENT OF THE NEW PRESIDENT, IN HIS VIEW, LENDS GIEREK'S VISIT ADDED IMPORTANCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EACH SIDE: SINCE GIEREK WILL BECOME THE FIRST SOCIALIST LEADER TO MEET PRESIDENT FORD, THE OTHERS WILL BE ANXIOUS FOR GIEREK'S ASSESSMENT OF HIM, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE PRESIDENT WILL GET A CHANCE TO SIZE UP AN IMPORTANT SOCIALIST LEADER BEFORE A FUTURE MOSCOW "SUMMIT". DAVIS

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